

October 13, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Representative Louie Gohmert 508 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5866

Dear Representative:

I understand that you recently wrote to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin urging the Commission to require the participation of satellite radio licensees in the Emergency Alert System ("EAS"). I am pleased to inform you that XM Satellite Radio Inc. (XM) provides important emergency information today, and has expressed our willingness to participate voluntarily in the EAS in comments with the FCC last year and in subsequent meetings with staff. We are therefore very concerned about legislation (H.R. 998) advocated by traditional radio broadcasters that would jeopardize our ability to provide emergency information to the public. In light of your advocacy of XM's participation in the EAS, we hope that you will oppose this legislation.

XM has been unambiguous in our willingness to participate in the EAS. As we wrote in comments to the FCC last year, "XM ... can play a vital role in improving the utility of the Emergency Alert System ("EAS") both by providing its own subscribers with national, state, and local EAS alerts as well as by serving as a complementary, satellite-based distributor of alerts to broadcast stations, cable systems, and other entities participating in the EAS."

Though not yet a part of the EAS, XM has taken significant steps to offer our subscribers real-time emergency alert information and Amber Alerts on our 21 Traffic, Weather, and Alerts channels as well as our dedicated XM Emergency Alert (Channel 247). We noted in our comments that, "XM is also committed to voluntarily becoming part of the EAS by transmitting national EAS alerts on all of its channels and state and local EAS alerts on the appropriate [Traffic, Weather and Alerts] channels."

XM's network offers tremendous public interest benefits, especially during emergencies. While Hurricane Katrina caused disruption and outages to nearly all traditional radio broadcasters in New Orleans, XM's three satellites continued to operate before, during, and after the storm. We utilized this resiliency to provide information for hurricane victims, safety officials, relief workers, and news media in the area. XM Emergency Alert (Channel 247) tracked the storm, reported on evacuation routes, and continues to provide updates about storm clean-up, road closures, school closings, and other vital information. Similarly, we provided extensive coverage of Hurricane Rita, including evacuation routes and information on both XM Emergency Alert and on our Traffic, Weather, and Alerts Channel covering the Houston area.

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Representative Louie Gohmert October 13, 2005 Page 2

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Unfortunately, traditional radio broadcasters have made no secret of their desire to prevent us from offering these important services. First, they sought an FCC ruling prohibiting us from offering content of a local interest on nationally distributed channels. (Our satellites distribute all of our channels nationally and our local repeaters retransmit all of the programming on the satellites without adding any programming.) In the face of a near-certain loss, they withdrew their request. Now they are urging support for H.R. 998, which, like their unsuccessful FCC petition, would jeopardize our ability to offer our traffic, weather, and emergency alert services by requiring the FCC to conduct a rulemaking to determine whether such services should be outlawed. The anti-consumer impact of this effort could not be clearer. The United States Department of Transportation opposed the broadcasters' efforts in comments filed at the FCC stating that it is "beyond question" that there is a strong public interest in providing this type of information. Likewise, in August 2005, Bob Griffin, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management for Arlington County, Virginia called the Washington alerts channel "a critical public service." We urge you to resist efforts by the traditional radio broadcasters to shut down these channels.

We look forward to improving our ability to provide emergency information through participation in the EAS. Our Traffic, Weather, and Alerts channels are the perfect vehicle for delivering such information. Whatever the self-interested benefits to traditional broadcasters, there is no public interest rationale for undermining XM's ability to provide these kinds of services.

Sincerely.

Hugh Panero

Chief Executive Officer

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps



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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Representative Ted Strickland 336 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-5907

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Sincerely,

President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

October 13, 2005

### VIA FACSIMILE

Representative Charles W. Pickering 229 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5797

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Representative Charles W. Pickering October 13, 2005 Page 2

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Hugh Paner

President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps

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VIA FACSIMILE Federal Communications Commission

Representative Hilda L. Solis 1725 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5467

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Representative Hilda L. Solis October 13, 2005 Page 2

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Sincerely,

Hugh Panero

President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps



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October 13, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Representative Lamar Smith 2184 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-8628

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Sincerely,

resident & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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October 13, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Representative Zoe Lofgren 102 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3336

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Representative Zoe Lofgren October 13, 2005 Page 2

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Hugh Panero

President & CEO

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Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps



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### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Representative John Shimkus 513 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5880

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President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin

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Commissioner Michael J. Copps



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Office of the Secretary

### VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Roy Blunt 217 Cannon House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515-2507 (202) 225-5604

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Sincerely

Hugh Panero President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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October 13, 2005

Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

#### VIA FACSIMILE

Representative Bobby L. Rush 2416 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 226-0333

Dear Representative:

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Representative Bobby L. Rush October 13, 2005 Page 2

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Sincerely,

President & CEO

cc: Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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# October 13, 2005 RECEIVED

#### **VIA FACSIMILE**

The Honorable Edward Whitfield 301 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-1701 (202) 225-3547 NOV 1 6 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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1500 ECKINGTON PLACE THE	WASHINGTON DC 20002-2194 PH 202 380 4000  No. of Copies rec'd  List ABCDE	WWW.XMRADIO.COM

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Sincerely

Hugh Panero

President & CEO

cc:

Chairman Kevin Martin Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



October 13, 2005

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### VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Michael A Ferguson 214 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-3007 (202) 225-9460

Dear Representative:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Sincerely

Mugh Panero President & CEO

CC:

Chairman Kevin Martin Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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October 13, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

### VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Henry Bonilla 2458 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-4323 (202) 225-2237

Dear Representative:

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President & CEO

Chairman Kevin Martin CC:

> Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy Commissioner Michael J. Copps



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October 13, 2005

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### **VIA FACSIMILE**

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable George P. Radanovich 438 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-0519 (202) 225-3402

Dear Representative:

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